

Appl. No. 09/944,217

Amendment to the Claims:

Claim 1. (previously presented): A method of dividing an elongated web having a variable width into a plurality of elongated strips, comprising the steps of:

advancing the web lengthwise in a predetermined direction along a predetermined path;

subdividing the web into a plurality of strips, including cutting the advancing web in at least one severing plane;

monitoring the widths of each of the strips and generating signals denoting the monitored ~~signals~~ widths;

processing said signals; and

shifting at least one of the web and the severing plane sideways when the processing step indicates departure of at least one monitored width from at least one other monitored width.

Claim 15. (previously presented): Apparatus for dividing an elongated web having a variable width into two strips, comprising:

means for advancing the web lengthwise in a predetermined direction along a predetermined path;

means for subdividing the web into two strips including a severing unit arranged to split the web in a severing plane;

means for monitoring the widths of each of the strips and for generating first signals denoting the monitored widths;

means for processing said first signals and for generating second signals when the widths of the strips deviate from each other; and

adjusting means including means for shifting at least one of the web and the subdividing means transversely of said direction in response to said second signals.

Claim 19. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said first rolls are adjacent one side of said path and said advancing means further includes a second pair of rolls, each of the second pair of rolls engaging a different one of the strips, the rolls of said second pair being

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adjacent the other side of said path and having axes which are inclined relative to each other.